

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-45. (Canceled).

46. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of S-(-)-chlorosuccinic anhydride comprising

a) reacting S-(+)-aspartic acid and sodium nitrite in a hydrochloric acid-aqueous milieu in which said S-(+)-aspartic acid suspended in demineralized water in a w/w ratio ranging from 1 kg/L to 0.5 kg/L, and concentrated hydrochloric acid is added in a ratio of S-(+)-aspartic acid to hydrochloric acid ranging from 0.35 kg/L to 0.55 kg/L in the presence of sodium chloride, said S-(+)-aspartic acid and said sodium chloride being in a molar ratio ranging from 1:0.3 to 1:0.5, to give crude S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid;

b) isolating said crude S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid by precipitation by cooling the reaction mixture at a temperature ranging from -10°C to -20°C; and

c) reacting said isolated crude S-(-)-chlorosuccinic acid and acetic anhydride.